UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.109/1141
6 April 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

ANGUILLA

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	GENERAL	1 - 4	3
II.	CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS	5 - 22	3
	A. Constitution	5 - 6	3
	B. Constitutional developments	7	4
	C. Political parties and elections	8	4
	D. Future status of the Territory	9 - 17	4
	E. Civil service	18 - 21	5
	F. External relations	22	6
III.	ECONOMIC CONDITIONS	23 - 58	6
	A. General	23 - 24	6
	B. Public finance	25 - 30	6
	C. Agriculture, livestock and fisheries	31 - 38	7
	D. Industrial development	39	9

CONTENTS (continued)

		Paragraphs	Page
E.	Public works	40	9
F.	Transport, communications and other basic facilities	41	9
G.	Property and real estate development	42 - 44	9
H.	Banking	45	10
I.	Environment	46	10
J.	International business	47 - 51	10
K.	Tourism	52 - 55	11
L.	Assistance from organizations and institutions of the United Nations system	56 - 58	11
IV.	SOCIAL CONDITIONS	59 - 64	12
A.	Labour	59 - 60	12
B.	Public health	61	12
C.	Drugs	62 - 63	12
D.	Disaster preparedness and prevention	64	13
V.	EDUCATION	65 - 67	13

ANGUILLA 1/

I. GENERAL

1. Anguilla lies 240 kilometres east of Puerto Rico, 113 kilometres north-west of Saint Kitts and Nevis and 8 kilometres north of St. Maarten/Saint-Martin. The Territory has a total land mass of 96 square kilometres and includes several offshore islets. The Department of Trade of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland operates a lighthouse station on Sombrero Island, one of the offshore islands. The main island has a maximum length of 26 kilometres and a maximum width of 5 kilometres. There is no dominant urban area in Anguilla, although certain areas are more densely settled than others. The government headquarters and the main settlement area are located in the Valley.

2. The climate is tropical, with a mean monthly temperature of about 25 degrees centigrade and a mean monthly relative humidity of over 70 per cent. Because of Anguilla's topography, rainfall is low and erratic. The islands lie in the hurricane zone and a hurricane watch is observed between July and October.

3. The population, which the 1984 census placed at 6,842, increased to 9,300 in mid-1991. The annual rate of population growth was estimated at 9.7 per cent. 2/ There are a small number of expatriate residents, mainly from the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States of America. According to the administering Power, several thousand Anguillans and their families live and work outside Anguilla, mainly on adjacent Caribbean islands (St. Maarten/Saint-Martin, St. Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, the United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico) and in the United Kingdom and the United States.

4. A United Nations mission visited the Territory in September 1984 and later held consultations in London with representatives of the administering Power.

II. CONSTITUTIONAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

A. Constitution

5. An outline of the Anguilla (Constitution) Order, 1982, is given in the report of the Visiting Mission (A/AC.109/799, paras. 19-27). Briefly, the Government of Anguilla consists of a Governor, an Executive Council and a House of Assembly. The Governor, who is appointed by the Queen, is responsible for defence, external affairs, internal security, including the police, and the public service. He also holds reserved legislative powers under the authority of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom. On all other matters, the Governor is required to consult with, and act on the advice of, the Executive Council.

6. The law of Anguilla is the common law of the United Kingdom, together with all legislation inherited from the former Associated State of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla up to August 1971 and the local legislation enacted since that date. The law is administered by the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, which comprises

a Court of Appeal and a High Court of Justice, courts of summary jurisdiction and magistrate courts.

B. Constitutional developments

7. A detailed account of the main points and questions raised in the report of the Constitution Review Committee appointed by the Governor is contained in a previous working paper prepared by the Secretariat (see A/AC.109/975, paras. 15 and 16; see also A/AC.109/975/Add.1, annex).

C. Political parties and elections

8. As previously reported, general elections are held in the Territory every five years. The last elections took place in February 1989 and resulted in the re-election of Chief Minister Emile Gumbs. His party, the ruling Anguilla National Alliance (ANA) won three of the seven seats contested. The position of ANA was further strengthened when an independent elected member rallied to the party. As a result, ANA now controls four of the seven seats in the House of Assembly. The opposition party, the Anguilla United Party (AUP), won two seats and the Anguilla Democratic Party (ADP), one seat.

D. Future status of the Territory

9. Following a review of its policy towards, and management of, its Caribbean dependent Territories, initiated in 1991, the United Kingdom made a significant policy change in 1992. For the full text of a statement issued following the review, see the working paper prepared by the Secretariat on Montserrat, document A/AC.109/1137, paragraph 17.

10. The new policy envisages better dialogue, coordination and cooperation between the United Kingdom and the Territories. It also aims at restructuring the management of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as well as the Overseas Development Agency (ODA), both in the United Kingdom and in the Caribbean.

11. Within this framework, each Governor is to have a full-time official of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to assist him. In order to improve coordination in London, steps were taken to establish a Ministerial Board of Management (subsequently renamed Ministerial Group on Dependent Territories), chaired by the Minister in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office responsible for the Caribbean.

12. Initiatives were also taken to establish, in Barbados, a regional secretariat for the Caribbean dependent Territories, led by a senior official of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, to manage funds from that Office and from ODA for the Caribbean Territories.

13. In the statement issued by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, British Ministers decided that, in their concern to help promote good government and economic development, priority must be given to bringing the regulation of offshore financial services into line with internationally accepted norms.

14. The statement further indicated that urgent consideration would be given to the need to revise outdated laws and to improve the standards of judiciary and court administration.

15. Additionally, the Ministerial Group would bring together British government departments and agencies which have a part to play in the affairs of the Territories.

16. Apart from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Overseas Development Agency, representatives from the Treasury, Home Office, Department of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Defence, Department of Transport, Department of the Environment and Bank of England will be invited to be represented in meetings of the Group on a regular basis.

17. In November 1992, the Chief Minister held a meeting in Montserrat with his counterparts of the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands to formulate a common position on the above-mentioned review of policy and management of the Caribbean dependent Territories. 3/

E. Civil service

18. In reply to a query addressed to him by the Secretary of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance on behalf of the Subcommittee, a representative of the administering Power stated in a letter dated 5 August 1991 that the Anguillan public service was comprised of approximately 92 per cent indigenous and 8 per cent expatriate staff members. Out of a total of 515 employees, 31 were from other Caribbean islands, 6 from the United Kingdom (providing technical assistance under the United Kingdom Aid Programme) and 6 others from various countries (mainly provided by aid donors such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

19. The Minister for Finance said in his 1992 Budget Speech that the salaries and wages of public servants amounted to over 56 per cent of the budget, and that increments in these emoluments had resulted in a substantial rise in the Government's recurrent budget. The various departments of the administration had, however, assisted the Government in keeping overall expenditure to acceptable levels by reducing their operating costs by 10 per cent as requested by the Government.

20. The Treasury Department had taken steps to provide group medical insurance for all civil servants. Within this framework, it had set up a committee to study the question and to make recommendations as to a suitable insurance scheme for civil servants.

21. The Minister for Finance stated that the Government was placing a great deal of emphasis on manpower development and training. That measure, and the provision of personal computers in government departments, was designed to increase productivity while keeping expenditure low.

F. External relations

22. The Government of Anguilla cooperates directly with other Governments in the Caribbean and participates in regional conferences and projects organized by Governments, regional and international organizations and agencies (see also paras. 56-58). The Territory is a member of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the University of the West Indies and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, and holds observer status in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

III. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

A. General

23. Anguilla's development objectives remain the raising of the standard of living of Anguillans through the development of the Territory's productive potential and the provision of a wide range of employment opportunities. Tourism is the major vehicle of growth, although the Government recognizes the importance of some level of economic diversification for balanced sectoral growth. The development strategy also envisages joint ventures between the public and private sectors, thereby creating an atmosphere that would attract both local and foreign investment.

24. According to CDB, in 1991 the real gross domestic product rose by an estimated 6.5 per cent compared to 8.3 per cent in 1990. The slowdown in the rate of economic expansion was attributed mainly to a slow increase in total visitor arrivals as a result of the effects of the Gulf crisis at the start of 1991, and the continuing recession in the United States. Construction activity, which remained moderate during 1991, slowed during the third quarter following the completion of several major private and public sector projects. The lower level of economic activity affected fiscal performance, which deteriorated for the second consecutive year. Inflation as measured by consumer price index decreased from 5.3 per cent in 1990 to 4.6 per cent in 1991. 4/

B. Public finance

25. The currency of the Territory is the East Caribbean dollar (EC$). One United States dollar (US$ 1.00) is equivalent to EC$ 2.68. In its Annual Economic Report, 2/ CDB stated that the performance of public finances in Anguilla deteriorated in 1991. The overall budget deficit widened to EC$ 5.1 million in 1991 from EC$ 3.4 million in 1990. Preliminary data showed that the Government's current account surplus decreased from EC$ 1.5 million in 1990 to EC$ 0.7 million in 1991. Current revenue declined by 5 per cent to EC$ 31.9 million in 1991. Current expenditure during that period also declined, by 1.8 per cent to EC$ 31.2 million, as transfers to the recently privatized electricity department ceased. As a result of the deficit in 1991, the Government was only able to meet 50 per cent or EC$ 0.5 million of its funding obligation to the Anguilla Development Board.

26. In his Budget Speech, the Minister for Finance stated that preliminary data for the year 1992 showed revenue collection in excess of EC$ 31.6 million. He added that for 1993 projections showed that recurrent revenue was expected to be

EC$ 37,088,300 and recurrent expenditure at EC$ 36,901,184, which would create a surplus of EC$ 187,116.

27. He further stated that the Ministry of Finance had sought ways of eliminating several loopholes in revenue collection, and would continue to welcome suggestions on improving collection procedures. The Government was currently strengthening its auditing capacity and, in this respect, would appoint in the near future a Director of Audit.

28. The fundamental problem with regard to revenue collection, according to the Minister, was the fact that the Territory had low tax rates and a small tax base. He added that although the imposition of an income tax was an option as far as Anguilla's aid donors were concerned, the Government had no desire to impose such taxation and, in fact, would resist any suggestion for its imposition.

29. The Minister explained that the introduction of an income tax would require the establishment of a new system for its administration and collection, as well as for the enforcement of penalties. He said that there would be no need to introduce that form of taxation as long as the people of the Territory continued to pay the various taxes currently imposed.

30. According to CDB, overall funding for the Government's Public Sector Investment Programme for the period from 1992-1994 amounts to EC$ 82.5 million, of which the contribution of local funds is envisaged at EC$ 15.8 million. It was anticipated that projected expenditure would decrease from EC$ 43.5 million in 1992 to EC$ 24.4 million in 1993 and EC$ 14.7 million in 1994. The Programme strongly emphasizes improvements in major road networks and social services, such as health and education, as well as in the water supply. Approximately 47 per cent of total planned investment is allocated to the economic services sector, 23.6 per cent is earmarked for social services, 13.4 per cent for financial services and 16.3 per cent for general public services. 2/

C. Agriculture, livestock and fisheries

31. Agricultural activity in Anguilla is extremely limited by a combination of factors, including poor soil, a small amount of arable land and irregular rainfall. The policy of the Government, however, is to increase to the greatest extent possible the degree of self-sufficiency in agricultural production.

32. As previously reported, notwithstanding the prevailing dry conditions and the unpredictable rainfall patterns existing in Anguilla, agriculture continues to play an important part in the livelihood of the local people. In addition to farming, several Anguillans are engaged in livestock and poultry production, as well as fishing. A greater number of youngsters are becoming interested in agricultural projects, such as growing vegetables. Owing to changes in dietary habits, young people are now much keener on eating locally produced vegetables.

33. According to the publication Anguilla Life Magazine, the Caribbean Agricultural Rural Development and Training Service (CARDATS) and the Department of Agriculture are working very closely with local farmers in an effort to help them to get higher yields. In order to achieve this, the Department has taken a

number of initiatives, which include importing high producing and disease-resistant varieties of seeds, which it sells to the farmers; improving storage facilities; making available for hire mechanical equipment such as tractors and ploughs; and providing crop protection services. CARDATS is also helping with irrigation schemes by creating ponds which act as catchment areas and which hold water until it is needed.

34. It has previously been reported that the Governor had stated that, in addition to CARDATS, the Department of Agriculture was also collaborating with the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute in providing assistance to farmers and livestock producers. The assistance to livestock producers included the introduction of improved breeds of animals and the setting up of breeding programmes for pigs and rabbits. Farmers were being encouraged to pay greater attention to the environment by reducing soil erosion on slopes and by conserving water.

35. CDB noted that although there was a decline in rainfall from 102 centimetres in 1990 to 48 centimetres in 1991, output of some crops increased in 1991. Produce grown locally includes yams, which was the only crop affected by drought, pigeon peas, corn, lettuce, cabbage and sweet potatoes. 2/

36. The improved performance in this sector is attributable to the increase in demand by the hotels and residents for locally produced crops, as well as to an increase in the price paid for fresh fruits and vegetables, and the success of drip irrigation system. The export of lettuce and cabbage to St. Maarten/Saint-Martin and Puerto Rico rose as a result of the efforts of one entrepreneur using hydroponics, that is, soil-less agriculture whereby the vegetables are grown solely in a solution of plant nutrients. 2/

37. The creation of a separate Fisheries Department in 1989 has led to increased interest in deep-sea fishing. There is a demand by the hotels for lobster, "pot fish" and small snappers caught locally. The increased demand by the tourism sector augurs well for the future of this subsector. Other public sector initiatives for the fishing subsector include the construction of a marine base in the Sandy Ground area, and the development of a marine park designed to help preserve marine life, to be financed mainly by a grant from the British Development Division (BBD). In this connection, a barge which was in the Road Bay area has been moved and is being used to create an artificial reef. 2/

38. According to CDB, encouraging the exploitation of deep-sea resources would help to reduce the risk of depleting the Territory's own fishing resources as a result of over-fishing. At present, the majority of fish are caught in nearby waters and are sold on the domestic market. Involvement in deep-sea fishing will require investment in larger boats, fishing equipment and training programmes. An expansion in fisheries output above current levels, however, must be supported by improved landing, processing and storage facilities, and continued enforcement of legislation to protect fishing resources. 2/

D. Industrial development

39. The manufacturing sector continues to be medium- and small-scale and confined to a narrow range of activities, including the production of salt, the construction of wooden boats and other traditional operations. The territorial Government reports that the manufacturing sector is still in its infancy.

E. Public works

40. According to the Minister for Finance, the Government will contribute to the financing of road projects and a water development programme costing in excess of EC$ 16 million and funded by the European Development Fund and the British Development Division in the Caribbean. Projects completed in 1992 included the construction of additional school facilities, government buildings, the drilling of wells and the provision of pipes.

F. Transport, communications and other basic facilities

41. The Territory is served by a network of nearly 100 kilometres of all-purpose roads, two major seaports and an airport. In recent years, several major capital improvement projects were completed and others were reported in progress.

G. Property and real estate development

42. According to CDB, activity in the construction sector increased moderately in 1991. While several hotels continued to expand room capacity, there was an overall slowdown in commercial construction. Residential construction was constrained by reduced liquidity in the domestic banking system. Meanwhile, the implementation of several public sector projects was behind schedule, either as a result of delays in funding approvals by donor agencies or because of a shortage of counterpart funding. 4/

43. As reported previously, in January 1991, the territorial Government had stated that it was tightening regulations on land held by foreigners under the Alien Land Holding Licences Ordinance. Aliens who had been granted a licence but did not complete their projects within the prescribed time would be made to pay financial penalties immediately, in order to avoid forfeiture proceedings.

44. As of 1 January 1991, land owners were asked to deposit 25 per cent of the assessed value of the land into the government treasury, 15 per cent of which would go towards paying stamp duties. The remaining 10 per cent would be refunded upon completion of the project/residence, or applied to penalties that might become due and payable.

H. Banking

45. During 1991, total commercial bank deposits increased by 15.5 per cent to EC$ 194.2 million. Loans and advances increased by 19.6 per cent to EC$ 165.7 million. Loans to the private sector increased by 19 per cent, and net credit to the public sector expanded by 60 per cent to EC$ 2.4 million as the Government sought to finance its capital expenditure programme. The share of loans to the distributive trades increased from 16.1 per cent to 16.9 per cent. The share of loans to construction and land development decreased from 8.7 per cent in 1990 to 8 per cent in 1991 as construction activity slowed. The share of loans to the tourism sector increased slightly from 29.1 per cent to 29.6 per cent. 2/

I. Environment

46. The Government took action in previous years to acquire land so as to protect it from the illegal sand-mining activities of the local companies. It also decided to enact strong legislation to regulate cruising within its territorial waters, in order to prevent environmental damage by careless boaters (see A/AC.109/1058, paras. 51-53).

J. International business

47. Following a review of the Territory's financial sector, which was ordered by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs of the United Kingdom, Anguilla's international financial services were placed under the authority of the Governor in May 1990. The Territory subsequently reviewed 43 bank licences and cancelled 30 (see A/AC.109/1058, paras. 56-60).

48. In December 1991, the House of Assembly approved the Offshore Banking and Trust Companies Ordinance, giving the Governor complete and final authority over the granting of licences to offshore companies (see A/AC.109/1106, para. 54).

49. As stated previously, the Minister for Finance and Economic Development had announced that the United Kingdom had agreed to provide Anguilla with EC$ 40.5 million to fund six major development projects (see A/AC.109/1106, paras. 56-58).

50. These projects were a new Financial Service Companies Registry office, which would also house offices for the Anguilla Hotel Association and the Department of Tourism; a new post office, to replace the existing one which is too small and in a serious state of disrepair; a new police station and marine base at Sandy Ground which, as a multi-purpose building, would provide offices for the departments of fisheries, immigration, customs and tourism; a new public library resource centre which would replace the existing public library and provide a learning and training centre for the Albena Lake-Hodge Comprehensive School; a new prison; and a comprehensive water development programme.

51. The Minister for Finance added that an additional amount of EC$ 4 million was being reserved for projects which the Anguilla Government and the British Development Division in Barbados might agree upon as necessary for Anguilla over

the next three years. Also, the United Kingdom Government had agreed to review the capital needs of Anguilla once the funds had been fully utilized. The allocation of these funds did not include any technical assistance or training which would be provided by the United Kingdom Government over the next few years.

K. Tourism

52. According to CDB, 2/ total visitor arrivals for 1991 amounted to 90,544 compared with 90,506 in 1990, of whom 65.8 per cent were day visitors and 34.2 per cent stopover arrivals. The number of day visitors, mainly from St. Maarten/Saint Martin increased by 0.6 per cent to 31,002, while the number of stopover visitors increased by 0.4 per cent to 59,542. Tourism earnings totalled EC$ 96.7 million, 3.4 per cent above the 1990 figure. The average length of stay stood at 10.3 days.

53. The industry benefited from increased promotional activity undertaken by the Anguilla Tourist Board and the Anguilla Hotel Association, but because of limited financial resources, marketing efforts were concentrated in the United States which is the industry's major market. The largest number of stopover arrivals came from the United States, and increased by 7.5 per cent in 1991 to 20,379, while stopover visitors from Europe increased by 7.1 per cent, and the number of stopover visitors from Canada decreased by 2.5 per cent. 2/

54. Total visitor accommodations increased to 863 rooms, 4.9 per cent more than in 1990. Occupancy rates in the larger, more expensive hotels increased while some medium-size hotels recorded lower than expected occupancy rates during the 1991 tourist season. The smaller hotels and guest houses also continued to experience low occupancy rates. In an effort to address these and other related concerns, Inns of Anguilla, a coalition of small hotel/guest house owners, was formed in 1991 and a review of the subsector was completed by a consultancy firm. The major weaknesses identified included poor product quality, insufficient hotel training, poor management and high costs. In addition, many of these establishments are not ideally located. The consultants recommended joint marketing, human resources development and upgrading of facilities. 2/

55. CDB reported that the continued expansion in the hotel industry remained a serious concern. The number of hotel rooms increased by 25 per cent between 1985 and 1990. In the absence of a moratorium on hotel construction, suggestions have been made for the Department of Tourism to conduct market research to determine the demand for visitor accommodation, intensify promotional efforts in non-traditional markets and market selectively the smaller hotels and guest houses. 2/

L. Assistance from organizations and institutions of the United Nations system

56. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued to be the main source of development assistance to the Territory within the United Nations system. The country programme for Anguilla approved by the UNDP Governing Council provides the framework for external assistance to Anguilla. In the

fourth programming cycle (1986-1991), UNDP provided US$ 1.4 million. In the second country programme for the Territory covering the period from 1992 to 1996, UNDP has programmed US$ 1.26 million.

57. During the reporting period, United Nations agencies pursued their ongoing activities. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, jointly with BBD, assisted in the development of teaching materials. The United Nations Drug-Control Programme helped the Government to prepare a master plan for drug abuse prevention. The United Nations Population Fund provided assistance for the government family life education programme. The Pan-American Health Organization provided assistance in the areas of health equipment maintenance, immunization and the improvement of laboratory facilities to test for the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

58. The Territory is represented at the annual meetings of the Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Economic Development, sponsored by the World Bank.

IV. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

A. Labour

59. The development objectives of the Government are aimed at improving the living standards of Anguillans through the development of the Territory's productive potential and the provision of a wide range of employment opportunities (see A/AC.109/1026, para. 73).

60. CDB reports that, although firm data are unavailable, the number of residents holding a second job in the tourism sector, and the issuing of work permits for skilled and unskilled labour suggest that unemployment remains negligible. Tourism and tourism-related construction remain the major employer, although the seasonal nature of tourism in the Territory produces large variations in the demand for labour. This resulted in a high demand for labour during the first half of 1991 when construction activity was strong. Demand for labour declined during the second half of the year, however, as construction activity slowed down. 2/

B. Public health

61. The Government remained committed to providing primary health care for all Anguillans by the year 2000. The Territory is served by the 24-bed Cottage Hospital and the Princess Alexandria Hospital, a 36-bed facility financed by the United Kingdom.

C. Drugs

62. Press reports indicate that although drug use in Anguilla is currently limited to soft drugs such as marijuana, there is evidence that harder drugs, including cocaine, are being introduced into the Territory. The Chief of Police is reported to have said that evidence showed that hard drugs were being

imported when the tourist season was at its height. He noted also that, because of unprotected territorial borders, drug-trafficking could pose a problem.

63. In November 1992, the Government announced that the Police Department would be strengthened in 1993, and that the police would work in closer cooperation with the Customs Department in the war against drugs. Within this context, joint police-customs sea patrols would be formed.

D. Disaster preparedness and prevention

64. According to press reports in June 1992, the Governor had said that he was impressed by the Emergency Operations Centre in the British Virgin Islands and that he wished to see a similar facility established for Anguilla. He added that, following talks in London with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, he had obtained £20,000 from the British Government to finance the establishment of such a facility in Anguilla. A study was reportedly under way to determine what equipment was needed, the costs involved and the location of the Centre. 5/

V. EDUCATION

65. Education is compulsory for all children between 5 and 14 years of age, and is free at the primary and secondary levels. In November, there were reportedly 2,404 children of school age in the Territory.

66. In its 1991 report, 2/ CDB stated that the education system in Anguilla faced severe problems. In 1986, the common entrance examination was abolished and secondary education was changed from a selective to a comprehensive system. These changes removed all criteria by which students were evaluated for entrance to the comprehensive system at the secondary level. This resulted in the grouping of students of widely divergent abilities, and contributed in part to the poor performance of students in the Caribbean Examinations Council tests. Results of the examination showed a decline in test scores, and that only 25 per cent of the examinees received full passes. The poor performance is also attributed to overcrowding in the urban primary schools; insufficient space in the secondary school; the high percentage of untrained teachers at the primary level and the loss of teachers to the private sector and to the civil service; slow curriculum development; and relatively low expenditure on equipment and supplies.

67. CDB also reported that a thorough evaluation of students' abilities and the upgrading of existing facilities were required so that Anguilla could improve its education system. In recognition of this problem, the Government has made education a priority for funding. It has recommended, as possible solutions, the construction of a new school building, upgrading of the school curriculum and intensifying teacher training. It has also suggested that Anguilla should become more involved in shared educational services with its territorial neighbours in order to reduce costs. 2/

Notes

1/ The information contained in this paper has been derived from published reports and from information transmitted to the Secretary-General by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under Article 73 e of the Charter of the United Nations on 7 July 1988 for the years 1986 and 1987, and on 16 February 1989 for the years 1984 to 1987. The facts and figures relating to those years, as well as to the year 1988, are the latest information available.

2/ The Caribbean Development Bank, Annual Economic Report, 1991, Anguilla.

3/ The Daily News (United States Virgin Islands), 20 November 1992.

4/ The Caribbean Development Bank, Annual Report, 1991 (Barbados).

5/ The Island Sun (Tortola), 20 June 1992.